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23 March 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Research and Development Branch, DPD
SUBJECT : Proposed Visit to the Detachments

25X1A 1. As you will recall, prior to your TDY to California, I informed you of the plan for Major [REDACTED] and me to visit the detachments and the reasons for the visit. I subsequently also discussed this subject with Mr. [REDACTED]. I now find that Col. Burke objects to my making this trip since my retainability with the Project will be so brief upon completion of the trip. Col. Burke is of the opinion that if Major [REDACTED] should make the trip with Messrs. [REDACTED].

25X1A 2. First, as I have previously stated to you, I feel that frequent visits to the detachments are essential for headquarters staff personnel to provide them with current information concerning the status of field units. This is absolutely necessary if the staff is to remain in a position to provide timely and accurate guidance to the detachments and/or to make accurate decisions affecting the activities of the field units. I believe this is the concept the Project Director had in mind when he directed that field visits be accomplished four times a year.

25X1A 3. I have found that on past visits it is often difficult to forecast all items of business which I plan to take up with the detachments since there are usually many more matters requiring headquarters or contractor action which are not discovered until actually at the detachment. I would, however, by way of this memorandum, like to present some of the more important reasons for making a visit at this time:

25X1A a. As you are aware, Eastman has been evaluating data from the Red Dot camera tests for over a year. Recently, Eastman (as a result of findings during the Red Dot tests) advised that, in their opinion, camera settings should vary dependent upon whether it was intended for Eastman or [REDACTED] to process the film. At the present time we are using the same exposure settings regardless of intended processing site. Eastman Kodak states that they recommend:

(1) ZI processing - Overexposure and under development (or, in their words, controlled development) of mission film.

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(2) [REDACTED] processing - Under development and over-exposure (or maximum or full development) during processing.

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There is obviously some discrepancy in the most recent exposure information supplied us by EK, since past experience has proved that, if we used the settings they recommended it would result in a serious overexposure. Much of the recent [REDACTED] processed film is thin, indicating either underexposure or under development. I should point out that it is extremely difficult to determine which of these conditions exists until exposure and conditions under which film is processed are known. Hycon is of the opinion that we are experiencing under exposure -- EK, to the contrary, feels that recent [REDACTED] processed material has been overexposed but under developed.

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At the present time I know what exposure settings have been used on our operational missions. I do not know what type developer, processing speed, or solution replenishment rates are being used by the [REDACTED]. This latter information will be necessary to evaluate the exposure vs. processing difficulties we now face. I feel that it is fallacy to spend the effort and money, not to mention the risk involved on our missions, to procure the best intelligence photography possible and then to lose a portion of the information contained through inadequate or improper processing of film. A visit to each [REDACTED] will provide this data and give the information necessary to initiate corrective action through USAF to the [REDACTED].

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b. EK has recently completed modification of the 70 mm processor, formerly at [REDACTED] to include provisions for continued "package" operation during staging. The 70 mm processors at the detachments have not been given a major overhaul for two years. I intend to inspect these machines to determine if factory overhaul is required. If so, consideration will be given to modifying these machines to enable us to use them during staging or other operations requiring a semi-permanent type installation.

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c. Operations is now working up an Emergency War Plan and deployment plan which may require operating from two locations in Europe. The major problem will be dividing special equipment, [REDACTED] spares and test equipments. During the course of this trip, I plan to review configurations, [REDACTED] spares and test gear in order to provide the basis for recommending a solution for dividing this equipment under either of the aforementioned conditions.

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d. While Major [REDACTED] and I have worked very closely together in the equipment field, he [REDACTED] is not intimately familiar with some of the personnel problems and contractor-Project Headquarters relationships in the special equipment sections. I believe if both of us make this trip it will enable Major [REDACTED] to be brought up to date in these areas.

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3. During my three year assignment with the Project many changes and improvements have been made in the R&D areas as they affect the detachments. Prior to my departure from Project assignment, I would like to be able to advise you as to the existing equipment and personnel status at each detachment and to either (1) assure you that special equipment and personnel are adequate and satisfactory or (2) to advise you to the contrary, itemize deficiencies or inadequacies as I see them and to present necessary recommendations for corrective action.

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[REDACTED]

Lt. Col., USAF

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[REDACTED]